Attorney Docket No.: 47793/58503
U.S. Serial No.: 09/681,690
Applicants: T. Sato
Filing Date: May 22, 2001
Group Art Unit: 2863
Examiner: Xiuqin Sun
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The amendments to claims 6, 12, 14, 15, and 21 are minor amendments that do no relate to the patentability of these claims.

I. FORMAL MATTERS

Applicant notes with appreciation the Examiner's inclusion of a copy of the PTO Form 1449 that was submitted with the Information Disclosure Statement filed on August 6, 2001. Each of these references is initialed by the Examiner, thereby indicating that these references were considered by the Examiner.

The Office Action does not indicate whether the formal drawings are acceptable. Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to do so.

The Office Action does not acknowledge the claim to priority and does not indicate whether the certified copy of the priority document has been received. Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to do so.

II. PRIOR ART REJECTIONS

A. CLAIMS 1, 7, AND 13

Claims 1, 7 and 13 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,437,009 (Lane). This rejection is traversed.

The Examiner asserts that Lane teaches many features of the claimed invention including the claimed comparing unit and display unit. Specifically, the Examiner asserts that column 2, lines 25-32, column 6, lines 60-66 and column 7, lines 4-14 teach the claimed comparing unit. The Examiner further asserts that column 2, lines 42-44 and 66-68, and column 5, lines 36-55 teach the claimed display unit. Applicant submits that these sections of Lane teach the "logical shrinking of data" in order to

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present status information, such as network outages, efficiently. Lane teaches to filter out unimportant occurrences such as congestion events and individual link failures, so that more important occurrences such as linkset outages can be detected. The display unit of Lane merely provides a way to search and display status changes of information received from the network using different monitoring modes such as PLAY 22/24, SEARCH 26/28, FILTERS 36 and PAUSE 40. Applicant submits that neither these sections of Lane, nor any other section of Lane, teach or suggest the claimed comparing unit and displaying unit. Specifically, Applicant submits that Lane does not teach or suggest to compare received information to a display condition and to display network information based upon the result of the comparison, as recited in independent claims 1, 7, and 13. This feature of the claimed invention allows the user to easily see whether certain conditions are met within the network. This feature is neither disclosed nor suggested by Lane.

B. CLAIMS 2-6, 8-12, 14-15, AND 16-21

Claims 2-6, 8-12, 14-15, and 16-21 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lane in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,974,237 (Shurmer). This rejection is traversed.

Applicant submits that Shurmer fails to make up for the deficiencies of Lane, as presented above with respect to claims 1, 7 and 13. Therefore, Applicant submits that the combination of Lane and Shurmer fails to form invention defined by claims 2-6, 8-12, 14-15, and 16-21. Thus, Applicant submits that the rejection of claims 2-6, 8-12, 14-15, and 16-21 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) is improper.

III. NEW CLAIMS 22-25

Regarding new claims 22-25, Applicant submits that these new claims are patentable over the applied prior art for the reasons presented above with respect to

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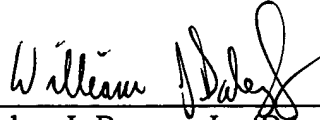Group Art Unit: 2863
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claims 1-21. Further, Applicant submits that neither Lane nor Shurmer teaches or suggests a setting unit that sets a display condition indicating a plurality of states of an interconnecting unit and selects at least one state from the plurality of states, or rearranges an order of the plurality of states to define the information to be displayed, as recited in claims 22-25. The claimed invention provides flexibility for setting a state of the interconnecting device and facilitates the monitoring of the devices in a network. This inventive feature helps the user such as a network administrator monitor the status of the devices more conveniently, thereby improving the operation of monitoring the network.

For the reasons presented above, Applicant respectfully submits that the present application is in condition for allowance and respectfully solicits the allowance of the present application.

Applicant believes that no additional fees are due for the subject application. However, if for any reason a fee is required, a fee paid is inadequate or credit is owed for any excess fee paid, you are hereby authorized and requested to charge Deposit Account No. **04-1105**.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: January 23, 2003

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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 9, line 27 with the following paragraph.

The state finding method is selected from "not monitored", "default", "predetermined", "customize", or the like, by using a pull-down menu. When "not monitored" is selected, the receiving unit 100 does not receive information indicating whether or not the interconnecting unit to be monitored is in the state indicated by the state field of the state-representation table from the interconnecting unit. When "default" is selected, a default condition is selected. When "predetermined" is selected, a predetermined determination condition is selected. The predetermined determination condition may be given by a provider of the network monitoring apparatus 10. When "customize" is selected, the network administrator can create a desired determination condition. The network monitoring apparatus 10 may add a new state to be monitored by adding a state name of the new state in the state-representation table or delete an unnecessary state by deleting the corresponding state name. Moreover, the evaluation order may be changed by changing two or more rows of the state-representation table.

IN THE CLAIMS:

6. (Amended) A network monitoring apparatus as claimed in claim 3, wherein said receiving unit receives the amount of communication at a connection port of [said] an interconnecting unit from said interconnecting unit as said information of said network,

said comparing unit compares said communication amount at said connection port with said display condition, and

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said display unit displays a communication state of said network based on said comparison result.

12. (Amended) A network monitoring program as claimed in claim 9, wherein said receiving module receives the amount of communication at a connection port of [said] an interconnecting unit from said interconnecting unit as said information of said network,

said comparing module compares said communication amount at said connection port with said display condition, and

said display module displays a communication state of said network based on said comparison result.

14. (Amended) A network monitoring method as claimed in claim 13, wherein in said setting step a receiving condition that defines information to be received is further set, and

in said receiving step said information of said network is received based on said receiving condition.

15. (Amended) A network monitoring method as claimed in claim 13, wherein in said setting step an indication image is further set to correspond to said display condition, and

in said displaying step said information of said network is displayed based on said indication image.

21. (Amended) A computer network system as claimed in claim 18, wherein said receiving unit receives the amount of communication at a connection port of [said] an interconnecting unit from said interconnecting unit,

said comparing unit compares said communication amount at said connection port with said display condition, and

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said display unit displays a communication state of said network based on said comparison result.

Please add the following new claims 22-25.

--22. A network monitoring apparatus for displaying a state of a network and monitoring said network, comprising:

a setting unit operable to set a display condition that defines information to be displayed, wherein said display condition indicates a plurality of states of an interconnecting unit, said setting unit selecting at least one state from the plurality of states or rearranging an order of the plurality of states to define said information to be displayed;

a receiving unit operable to receive information of said network;

a comparing unit operable to compare said received information with said display condition; and
a display unit operable to display said information of said network based on a result of the comparison by said comparing unit.

23. A network monitoring program for allowing a state of a network to be displayed and allowing said network to be monitored, comprising:

a setting module operable to set a display condition that defines information to be displayed, wherein said display condition indicates a plurality of states of an interconnecting unit, said setting unit selecting at least one state from the plurality of states or rearranging an order of the plurality of states to define said information to be displayed;

a receiving module operable to receive information of said network;

a comparing module operable to compare said information received with said display condition; and
a display module operable to display said information of said network based on a result of the comparison by said comparing module.

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24. A network monitoring method for displaying a state of a network and monitoring said network, comprising:

setting a display condition that defines information to be displayed, wherein said display condition indicates a plurality of states of an interconnecting unit, said setting unit selecting at least one state from the plurality of states or rearranging an order of the plurality of states to define said information to be displayed;

receiving information of said network;

comparing said received information of said network with said display condition; and

displaying said information of said network based on a result of the comparison.

25. A computer network system comprising:

a network monitoring apparatus operable to display a state of a network and to monitor said network; and

a network communication device operable to notify said network monitoring apparatus of said state of said network, wherein

said network monitoring apparatus includes:

a setting unit operable to set a display condition that defines information to be displayed, wherein said display condition indicates a plurality of states of an interconnecting unit, said setting unit selecting at least one state from the plurality of states or rearranging an order of the plurality of states to define said information to be displayed;

a receiving unit operable to receive information of said network from said network communication device;

a comparing unit operable to compare said received information with said display condition; and

a display unit operable to display said information of said network based on a result of the comparison by said comparing unit.--

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